CLAIMS

1.   A method comprising the step of:

determining a first quality of a link between an electronic device and a node by examining a first layer of a protocol stack used to implement said link that is different from a second layer of said protocol stack that is used to deliver said packets.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of adjusting the delivery of said packets according to said determined quality.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first layer is layer four of the OSI model and said second layer is layer two of the OSI model.

4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

determining a second quality of a second link between said electronic device and a second node by examining a third layer of a second protocol stack used to implement said second link that is different from a fourth layer of said second protocol stack that is used to deliver said packets.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein at least one of said first quality and second quality is based on at least one of the measurements of reachability and availability of a given service used for delivery of said packets.

6.   The method of claim 6 wherein said service includes Voice over IP.

7.   The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of delivering said packets over the one of said two links based on a determination of which link has a more desirable quality.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein said determination is based, at least in part, on which link has the least financial cost for carrying said packets.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein said determination is based, at least in part, on whether a change from one of said links to the other of said links will be transparent to the performance of a given service being used for delivery of said packets.

10.   An electronic device operable to communicate with at least one node via a link, said device operable to determine a quality of said link by examining a first layer of a protocol stack used to implement said link that is different from a second layer of said protocol stack that is used to deliver said packets.

5   11.   The device of claim 10 wherein said device is further operable to adjust the delivery of said packets according to said determined quality.

12.   The device of claim 10 wherein said first layer is layer four of the OSI model and said second layer is layer two of the OSI model.

13.   The device of claim 10 wherein said device is further operable to determining a quality of
10   a second link between said electronic device and a second node by examining a third layer of a second protocol stack used to implement said second link that is different from a fourth layer of said second protocol stack that is used to deliver said packets.

14.   The device of claim 13 wherein said device is further operable to deliver said packets over the one of said two links based on a determination of which link has a more desirable
15   quality.

15.   The device of claim 14 wherein said determination is based, at least in part, on which link has the least financial cost for carrying said packets.

16.   A computer-readable storage medium containing a set of instructions for an electronic device comprising the step of:

20   determining a first quality of a link between an electronic device and a node by examining a first layer of a protocol stack used to implement said link that is different from a second layer of said protocol stack that is used to deliver said packets.